



# GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 27

## NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Friends,

As we spring forward into the new year, I'd like to wish everyone in our community happy holidays. Holi, Norvuz, Passover, and Easter holidays were all celebrated this month. Themes of reflection, appreciation, and celebration of the changing seasons help us welcome our families into warmer weather. I would also like to thank everyone for the birthday wishes!

I spoke on a panel for Rice MBA students this month alongside former District 137 Rep. Scott Hochberg and Bill Kelly from Mayor Turner's office, and attended a luncheon put on by the Southwest Management District celebrating our Houston Police.

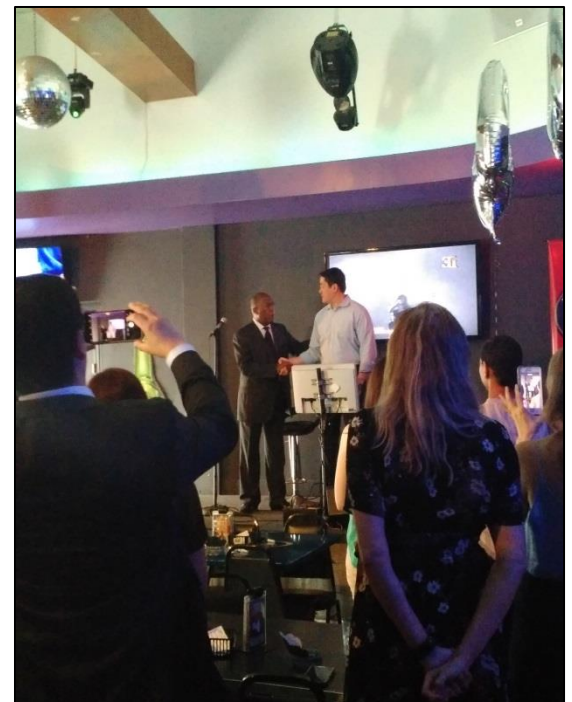
Seeds of Sharpstown is hosting an event showcasing an art contest held for University of Houston Architecture students in April. We hope to see you all there!

With the legislative session quickly approaching, I made a point to meet with Harris County Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Jack Cagle to discuss legislative reforms to the Juvenile Justice system.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a planning and environmental linkage study for a large stretch of I-69 that runs through District 137. The study is intended to come up with solutions to ease the high congestion and accident rate in this area.

Lastly, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank my District Director, Beth Martin for her many years of service with Team Wu. Beth has accepted a new and exciting role; we are thankful of her dedication to District 137 and wish her all the best in her new endeavors. Taking over is Jake Breault, who grew up in District 137, and is excited to work for his community and fill the big shoes left behind by Beth. Jake can be reached at [jake.breault@house.texas.gov](mailto:jake.breault@house.texas.gov). As always, please reach out to my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mayor Turner showed up to help Gene celebrate his birthday among family and friends.

### In This Issue...

- Rice MBA Panel, SWMD March on Crime Luncheon
- Seeds of Sharpstown Art House
- Juvenile Justice
- TxDOT PEL Study



Gene alongside Director of Government Relations Bill Kelly, and former District 137 Representative Scott Hochberg.

## Public Policy Panel for MBA students at Rice University

I had the honor of speaking to MBA students at Rice University on a panel for leaders in Public Policy. Director of Government Relations for Mayor Turner's office, Bill Kelly, was also invited as well as former District 137 Representative Scott Hochberg to speak on the panel alongside me.

The panel spoke about what a career in policy and public service looks like on a daily basis, noting the difference between when the Texas Legislature is in or out of session. We also talked about how the city and state policies overlap with one another, and how it takes the ability to build relationships across the various levels of government in order to be successful.

Students asked us a plethora of questions relating to transportation issues in the city and state, zoning in the City of Houston, redistricting in congressional districts and how Rep. Wu's district has changed since it was Rep. Hochberg's.

I greatly enjoyed being a part of this panel, and wanted to thank the other participants and Rice University for having me.







## Southwest Management District's March on Crime Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon

Southwest Management District hosted its annual "March on Crime Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon" on March 14, 2018 at Houston Baptist University. I was honored to be able to attend and get to spend some time having lunch with some of our great men and women in uniform.

The luncheon serves as the Southwest Management District's annual report on public safety initiatives and programs, and seeks to engage local leaders in the community with the officers who help keep us safe.

The awards are sponsored by the Houston Apartment Association, which recognized "Officer of the Year" for our Midwest and S. Gessner divisions. I would like to congratulate Officer Ng from the Midwest division, and Officer Conner from the S. Gessner Division on being recognized for their outstanding service to our wonderful community, and thank the Southwest Management District for hosting this valuable event.



Gene having lunch with HPD officers (above); Officer Conner (left) and Officer Ng (right) receiving recognition of their hard work and dedication to Southwest Houston. Thanks y'all!

## Seeds of Sharpstown Open House



Seeds of Sharpstown invites District 137 residents to attend a reception honoring Tanmay Thakker, who was awarded the 2017 Sharpstown Prize for Architecture. His winning design, “The Screen House,” which will be built this year in Sharpstown, will be on display. A recent University of Houston article highlights the prize - <http://www.uh.edu/news-events/stories/2018/february-2018/02052018Seeds-of-sharpstown-architecture-prize.php>

Make plans to attend and view all ten of the designs of the competition. The reception will be at the Beck Center on the campus of Saint Francis de Sales at 8100 Roos from 6 pm to 9 pm – Business Casual.

RSVP at [info@seedsofsharpstown](mailto:info@seedsofsharpstown) or on Facebook ([@seedsofsharpstown](https://www.facebook.com/seedsofsharpstown)).

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## Juvenile Justice with Commissioner Rodney Ellis

I met with Harris County Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Jack Cagle to prepare and discuss some of my agenda for the upcoming legislative session.

Making reforms to the Juvenile Justice system both in our district and state will be among my top priorities for the 86th legislative session.

This is an area of our society that needs to be reexamined due to the pervasive impact being involved in the justice system can have throughout a young person's life. Finding jobs, housing, and getting money for college or workforce training can be severely limiting to a young person with a criminal record.



Gene with Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and staff



Rather than further entrenching our youth into the criminal system, I am looking to work with high level stakeholders, such as Commissioners Ellis and Cagle, to make reforms in juvenile justice that will help these kids get on the right path, rather than just punish them.

## TxDoT Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDoT) is planing a PEL study of I-69 from Spur 527 to Beltway 8 South.

Much of the area that will be studied runs directly through District 137. I had an opportunity to attend a community meeting put on by TxDoT about the upcoming study to find out the impact on our community.

As it currently stands, the study will be conducted in 2 phases. The first phase will primarily focus on gathering data from now until summer 2018. The second phase will seek to develop conceptual ideas in how to combat the heavy traffic and often dangerous driving conditions in this stretch and present the findings in summer 2020.

I was told by TxDoT officials that there will not be any disruptions of normal traffic routes on 59 during this study, and no construction will take place until well after 2020.

This is an important study because within this corridor, there have been 567 deaths from 2015-2017. The stretch from 610/Westpark to Beechnut/Beltway 8 contains the highest concentration of crashes, which includes much of District 137.

The safety of our community is my number one priority, and PEL studies such as these will help our community become safer, and hopefully result in our roads becoming less congested and easier to navigate.



### What is a PEL Study?

- High-level, early-stage planning study
- Describes environmental and socio-economic conditions
- Identifies transportation issues
- Develops need and purpose for improvements

### Why is TxDoT preparing a PEL Study?

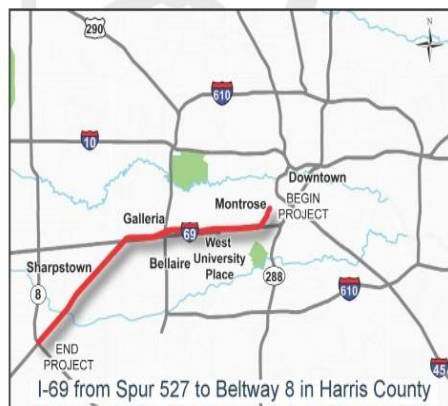
- Identify environmental constraints along the corridor
- Develop potential solutions and alternatives
- Engage stakeholders

### Who is involved in the process?

- |                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▪ Government and Resource Agencies | ▪ Neighborhood Associations |
| ▪ Elected Officials                | ▪ Local Residents           |
|                                    | ▪ Businesses                |

### Who Can I Contact?

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### I-69 PEL Process

Phase 1  
Winter 2017

CONDUCT DATA COLLECTION

ANALYZE EXISTING CONDITIONS

DETERMINE CORRIDOR ISSUES AND CONCERNS

IDENTIFY VISION FOR THE CORRIDOR WITH COMMUNITY INPUT

Phase 2  
Fall 2018

DEVELOP AND SCREEN CONCEPTUAL IDEAS AND ALTERNATIVES THAT SUPPORT CORRIDOR VISION

CONSIDER VIALBE ALTERNATIVES

PRESENT PEL FINDINGS

Summer 2020

